

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 07388 042317Z

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3136

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 7388

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS, OCON, XM, EC

SUBJECT: QUITO MFM - ABSENCE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER

1. IN NOVEMBER 4 SPEECH ON FORTHCOMING QUITO MFM BEFORE LUNCHEON HOSTED BY DIPLOMATIC ASSOCIATION, LOCAL OAS REPRESENTATIVE GABRIEL OSPINA ADVANCED OPINION THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER'S ABSENCE FROM MFM WAS PERHAPS SALUTARY IN THAT FOCUS OF PUBLIC-AND DELEGATES'-ATTENTION WOULD BE ON ISSUE AT HAND. OSPINA OPINED THAT, HAD SECRETARY KISSINGER ATTENDED, CONFERENCE AND PUBLIC OPINION COULD HAVE BEEN DISTRACTED FROM ITS MAIN WORK. HE ADDED THAT USDEL AS PRESENTLY COMPOSED INCLUDED A NUMBER OF HIGH-RANKING US OFFICIALS EXTREMELY WELL-VERSED IN OAS MATTERS AND HE WAS CERTAIN USDEL HAD COMPLETE CONFIDENCE OF SECRETARY.

2. COMMENT: OSPINA'S REMARKS WERE IN CONTEXT OF A SPEECH WHICH DEALT WITH GENERALITIES OF FORTHCOMING CONFERENCE AND WHICH DID NOT OTHERWISE TOUCH ON COMPOSITION OF PARTICIPATING OAS DELEGATIONS. IT STRIKES US THAT HE MAY HAVE VOLUNTEERED THESE COMMENTS AS PART OF OAS EFFORT TO COOL RESENTMENT AROUSED IN SOME QUARTERS BECAUSE OF SECRETARY KISSINGER'S NON-PARTICIPATION AND TO PUT HIS ABSENCE IN THE BEST POSSIBLE LIGHT.
BREWSTER

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Message Attributes

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